

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for forming a predictor set of features associated with a target, comprising:

- (a) selecting a predictor set of features;
- (b) adding at least one complement to said predictor set based on a quality of prediction;
- (c) checking to see if all of said features are repeated; and
- (d) removing at least one feature from said predictor set; and

as a result of performing each of steps (a)-(d) at least once, forming a predictor set for predicting the presence of said target.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising repeating steps (d), (b) and then (c) until determined in step (c) that all of said features of said predictor set have been repeated  $k$  times in a row, wherein  $k$  corresponds to the number of features in the predictor set.

4. 1. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said complement is a feature that when added to the features of said predictor set forms a predictor set having a quality of prediction for predicting said target that satisfies a predetermined threshold level.

4 - 6. (Canceled)

3. 1. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said  $k$  features of the predictor set are ordered; and wherein said feature that is removed from said predictor set is the first feature in the ordered predictor set.

8. (Canceled)

5. 1. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said selecting step comprises:

selecting  $k-1$  number of features at random, wherein  $k$  is a number greater than 1.

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